

GEORGE A. ROMERO

EMPIRE™ OF THE DEAD

AR MARVEL

#1

ILLUSTRATED BY
ALEX MALEEV



**PARENTAL
ADVISORY!
NOT FOR KIDS!**

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE DEAD FIRST WALKED...
THE GREATEST CITY IN THE EMPIRE STATE BECAME AN...
EMPIRE OF THE DEAD

Welcome to

New York

THE EMPIRE STATE
OF THE DEAD

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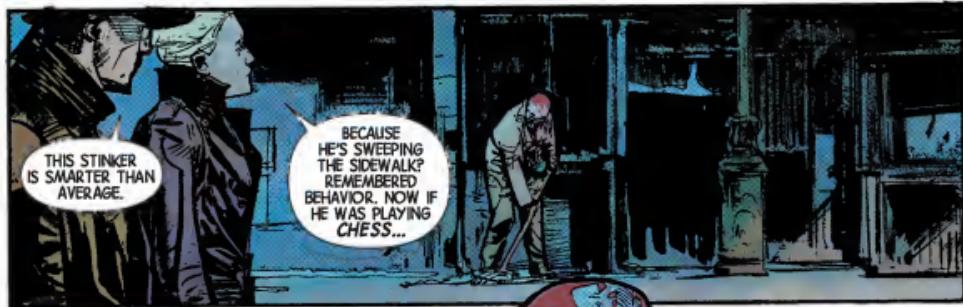
SPECIAL THANKS TO JORGE ZAFFINO, WHOSE ART
INFLUENCED MY APPROACH ON THIS BOOK. - ALEX MALEEV

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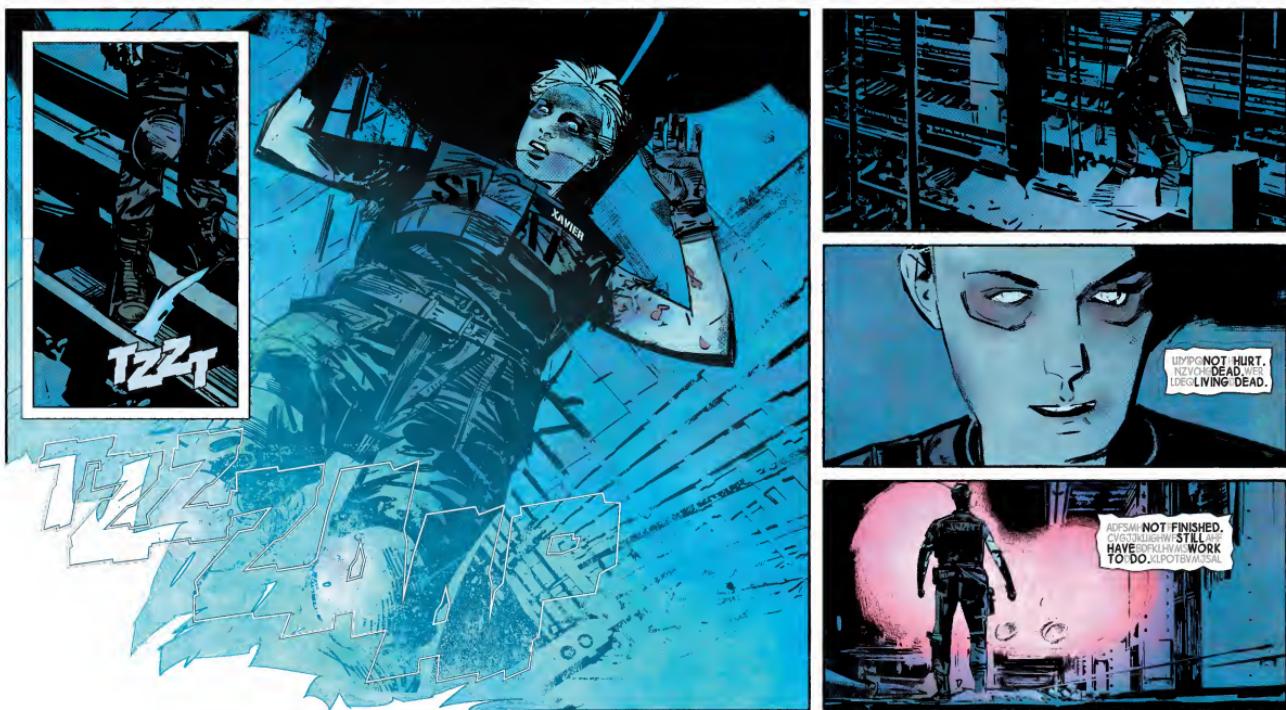


BATTERY PARK.



"COME ON, WE'VE GOT
A TRAIN TO CATCH."







CENTRAL PARK.

AR

WHAT TIME
DO THE GAMES
BEGIN?

CENTRAL PARK ZOO.

ARENA OPENS AT NINE.
WE OFFER A NUMBER OF
BASIC ENTERTAINMENTS FOR
EARLYBIRDS, SO...LOTS OF
PEOPLE COME EARLY.

ZANZIBAR'S
MY MAIN MAN.
SURVIVED DOZENS OF
FIGHTS. HARDLY NEEDED
ANY TRAINING. JUST
NATURALLY AGGRESSIVE.
I GUESS.















I ASKED PAUL
TO BRING YOU
HERE TO SEE IF IT
WAS POSSIBLE.



THAT ONE
WHO SEEMED SO
ATTRACTIVE FROM AFAR,
WOULD REMAIN JUST AS
ATTRACTIVE ONCE WE
WERE...CLOSER.



I HOPE
WE'LL BE SEEING
MORE OF EACH
OTHER.

YOU'LL
ARRANGE FOR
THAT, WON'T
YOU, PAUL?





I'M FORCED TO BE A G.P.
THESE DAYS. SHORTAGE OF
DOCS IN THE CITY. BUT MY
SPECIALTY IS PEDIATRIC
MEDICINE.

A8

YOU'RE A KID
DOCTOR?

QUALIFIES ME
TO WORK WITH
ZOMBIES. THEY'RE SORT
OF LIKE CHIMPANZEES. THEY
HAVE THE MENTAL CAPACITY
OF A THREE-YEAR-OLD CHILD.
JUST ENOUGH UPSTAIRS
TO TRAIN THEM.

WE TRAIN
THEM TO
FIGHT. FOR
EVERY SCRAP
OF FOOD
THEY GET.

MAKE ME
A DEAL, WILL
YOU?

DEPENDS...

GIVE ME ONE
OF YOUR FLESH-EATERS.
LET ME WORK WITH HIM
OR HER FOR TWO WEEKS
AND I'LL BRING BACK A
ZOMBIE WHO IS...I WON'T
SAY TAME, BUT...NON-
AGGRESSIVE.

IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT, OKAY,
IT'S A DEAL.



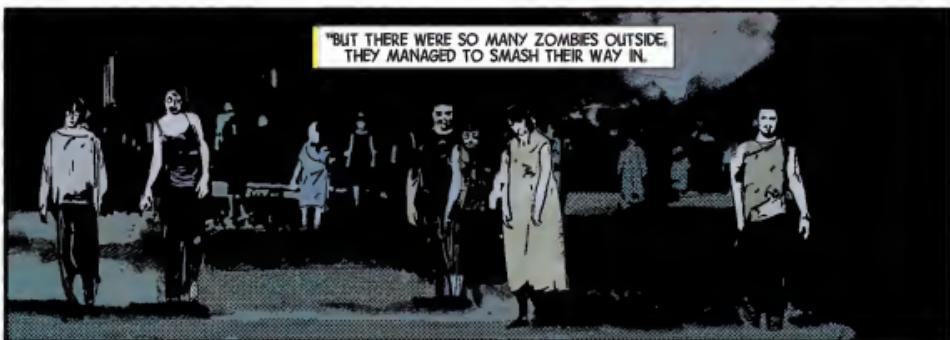
"MY SISTER MADE IT TO AN OLD FARMHOUSE, WHERE SHE FOUND SIX OTHER PEOPLE ALIVE.



"THEY REINFORCED THE WINDOWS AND DOORS. THEY MANAGED TO STAY SAFE FOR SEVERAL HOURS.



"BUT THERE WERE SO MANY ZOMBIES OUTSIDE, THEY MANAGED TO SMASH THEIR WAY IN.



"MY BROTHER WAS AMONG THE DEAD BY THEN.



"HE DRAGGED MY SISTER OUT OF THE HOUSE. EVERYONE BELIEVED HE WAS GOING TO KILL HER.



"HE DRAGGED HER INTO AN ABANDONED BARN AND WAS ABOUT TO ATTACK HER."



"THEN SUDENLY, HE SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE WHO SHE WAS."



"YOU KNOW ME, DON'T YOU?" SHE SAID. "I CAN TELL."

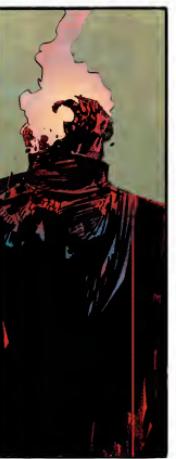


"THEN THE SHERIFF CAME WITH AN ARMED BAND OF LOCAL VIGILANTES. THEY COULD SEE MY SISTER IN THE OPEN DOORWAY OF THE BARN."

"'HERE!' SHE CALLED OUT. 'OVER HERE!'





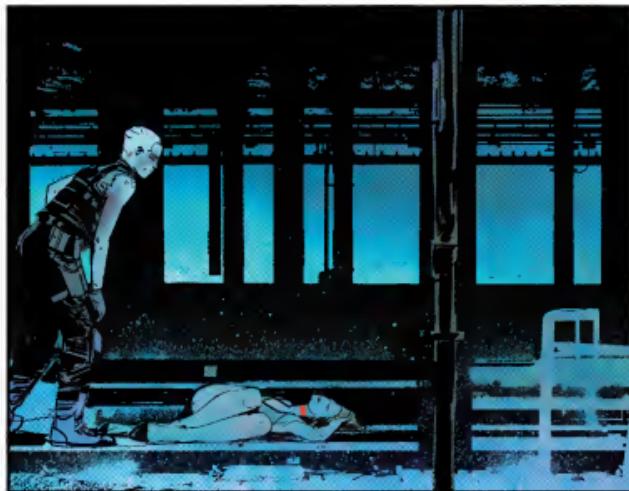




UNDERGROUND.







YOU'RE SCARED, AREN'T YOU?

IT'S OKAY TO ADMIT IT. THIS IS A FRIGHTENING WORLD WE LIVE IN – SOCIETAL BREAKDOWN, OUTBREAKS OF DRUG-RESISTANT DISEASES, DISAPPEARING RESOURCES, CLASS WARFARE DUE TO THE EVER-WIDENING INCOME GAP – WHATEVER'S YOUR POISON, YOU CAN READ ALL ABOUT IT AT NUMEROUS NEWS WEBSITES, AND ALSO IN THE PAGES OF THIS SERIES.

AS ANY FAN WORTH THEIR SALT WILL TELL YOU, STORIES STARRING THE UNDEAD ARE NOT JUST ABOUT WHAT YOU SEE ON THE SURFACE. YES, SCRATCH JUST BENEATH ITS ROTTED FLESH AND YOU'LL SEE THAT THIS UNSTOPPABLE GENRE CAN BE USED BY GOOD STORYTELLERS FOR INSIGHTFUL SOCIAL COMMENTARY. AND FILM DIRECTOR, SCREENWRITER, EDITOR AND LIVING LEGEND GEORGE ROMERO...WELL, YOU DON'T NEED ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE'S A MASTER STORYTELLER. WITHOUT HIS TRAIL-BLAZING WORK, WE WOULDN'T HAVE THE ZOMBIE GENRE AT ALL, WOULD WE?

NOW GEORGE HAS RETURNED TO A MEDIUM THAT HE LOVES TO SHOW US ALL HOW IT'S DONE, AND LIKE ANY GOOD UNDEAD INVASION, HE'S NOT ALONE. WATCHING OVER OUR NIGHTMARISH DREAM TEAM LIKE MAYOR CHANDRAKE HIMSELF ARE GEORGE'S CREATIVE PARTNER, PETER GRUNWALD, AND OUR VERY OWN EDITOR IN CHIEF AXEL ALONSO, WHO HAVE OFFERED HOURS OF GRUESOME GUIDANCE.

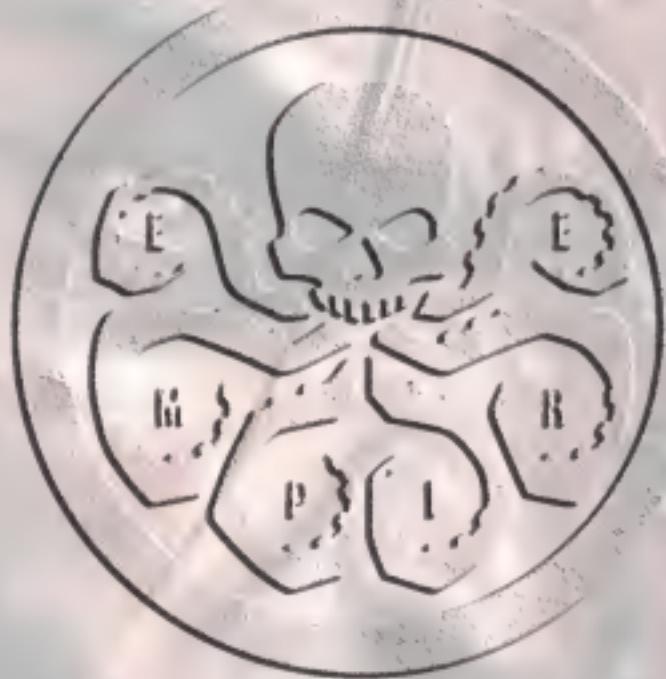
BRINGING THIS UNDEAD EPIC TO THRILLING LIFE IS THE AWARD-WINNING MURDERERS' ROW OF CREATORS INCLUDING THE AMAZING ARTIST ALEX MALEEV, COLOSSAL COLORIST MATT HOLLINGSWORTH AND LETHAL LETTERER CORY PETIT, WHO ARE ALL POURING THEIR BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS INTO EACH AND EVERY PANEL.

SPEAKING OF SPILLED FLUIDS, HOWZABOUT THE DISCOVERY THAT VAMPIRES HAVE INFESTED THE BIG APPLE AS WELL? WHO WILL WIN IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE BLOOD-SUCKERS AND THE FLESH EATERS? AND WHAT ABOUT US POOR HUMANS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE? SEE YOU HERE NEXT ISSUE AS WE ALL BEGIN TO DISCOVER THE ANSWERS TO THOSE CREEPY QUESTIONS. TALK ABOUT SCARY TIMES...

YOUR MAN @ MARVEL,
BILL ROSEMAN

NEXT:





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